GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4043
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
LINKING OF RIVERS
GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shrinking of water resources, fall in the level of ground water and non-availability of adequate irrigation facilities, a large area of agricultural land in western/northern States, particularly in Rajasthan remain unirrigated;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Union Government for expeditious supply of surplus water to water deficit States by linking Himalayan Rivers with Southern peninsular rivers; and

(c) the time by which adequate water is likely to be made available to the State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Distribution of India`s water resources is highly uneven. Due to low rainfall and limited ground water resources in some of the semi-arid regions of western/northern States, including Rajasthan, scope for providing irrigation facilities to the agricultural lands is limited. However, the State Governments have undertaken a number of irrigation projects to utilize the available waters. The details of cultivable area, net sown area and net irrigated area in the various States, including Rajasthan, are given in Annexure.

(b) & (c) The Union Government had, in 1980, formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an autonomous society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals depend on availability of funds, how soon the detailed project reports are prepared by the concerned States and consensus is reached among the cobasin States.

ANNEXURE
DETAILS OF TOTAL CULTIVABLE AREA, NET SOWN AREA, AND NET IRRIGATED AREA IN 1996-97

(In Thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Cultivable Area	Net Sown Area	Net Irrigated Area
1.	Haryana	3779	3615	2755
2.	Himachal Pradesh	805	558	105
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1051	733	313
4.	Punjab	4250	4139	3847
5.	Rajasthan	25695	16790	5588
6.	Uttar Pradesh	20832	17475	11999
7	Gujarat	12361	9600	3042